

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 669

By Boyd

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Robert Dallus Whitfield of Lebanon.

WHEREAS, we were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Robert Dallus Whitfield; and

WHEREAS, Dallus Whitfield was an exemplary gentleman and acclaimed photojournalist who made an indelible mark on his community and greatly improved the lives of his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, born in Tullahoma in 1968, Dallus Whitfield graduated from Lebanon High School in 1987 and earned an advanced degree from Middle Tennessee State University in 1991; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitfield was a stalwart in the local news industry for nearly three decades; working first as a photographer for the *Lebanon Democrat*, with which he enjoyed a long and fruitful career, he joined the *Wilson Post* in July 2013, a great boon to the nascent publication, as he possessed extensive institutional knowledge of Wilson County; and

WHEREAS, a staple of his community, Dallus Whitfield could be found at most graduations, sports events, or community affairs capturing memorable moments, and he frequently accompanied patrol officers on their beats, riding alongside them, ever ready to capture essential, breaking news; and

WHEREAS, his photo coverage of tornadoes that struck Wilson County in March 2020 received the Tennessee Press Association award for Best News Photo that year, one of the many awards Mr. Whitfield won during his career; and

WHEREAS, highly valued and respected by those in his community, Dallus Whitfield was an employee of the Jimmy Floyd Center, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church, and a

founding member of the City of Lebanon's Community Emergency Response Team beginning in 2012; he was later appointed a reserve officer with the Lebanon Police Department in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Dallus Whitfield was beloved by all who knew him; he will be greatly mourned by his mother, Anita Stone Whitfield; brother, Kyle (Elizabeth) Whitfield; uncle, Dan (Donna) Stone; cousins, Ashleigh (Chad) Beyer and Alyssa (Steven) Crafts; and a host of special friends who were like family to him; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his father, Joe Whitfield; and

WHEREAS, Dallus Whitfield leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional individual; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Robert Dallus Whitfield, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction. We express our sympathy and offer our deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Whitfield.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.